

Pacific Islands Regional Office And Science Center Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY06 and FY07) and Accomplishments (FY05 and FY06)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/05	2006	2007	How Progress Will Be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
High-Seas Protected Species Observer Reporting System	Project initially funded FY 05/06. Data recorders and software purchased.	First operational unit has been recently depolyed; messages successfully sent from sea. Project delayed in FY 05 due to unforeseen software incompatibilities.	Deployment will be contingent on success of initial trips	System will be tested for accuracy and validity by comparing transmitted messages with the hard copies of traditional observe data forms. Confidence in system will be confirmed after four mistake-free trips.	Four successful mistake-free trips	Jan-06
Cooperative PIRO/State of Hawaii Bottomfish Tagging Project	PIRO Bottomfish Observers tagged 38 BMUS discarded as bycatch in the NWHI Bottomfish fishery	Gear deployed on two observed bottomfish trips.	Continue deploying gear	Routine reports form Observer Program to the Regional Bycatch Coordinator	1) 100 fish tagged. 2) First tag return.	1) 3/6/2006 2)N/A
Testing of Dehooking Gear on Fish Bycatch Species	On-going project. Gear preliminarily tested by observers aboard longline vessels. Observer comments have been recorded in observer trip reports.	Tested equipment in a controlled setting aboard NOAA research vessel. Tested equipment and gathered video of at-sea attempts. Cruise report written detailing results. Continue testing gear from various commercial fishing platforms.	Complete project and submit report on results.	Cruise summaries for various platforms	Test equipment on commercial fishing vessels.	On going Sep-06
Protected Species Workshops for Longline Fishermen	Worshops conducted in Hawaii training 175 persons.	Conducted Protected Species Workshops in American Samoa in November 2005. Trained 65 persons. Makeup workshops will be conducted for both Hawaii and American Samoa longline fishermen.	Workshops are federally mandated. Therefore, workshops will continue. If longline fishery expands to Guam and CNMI, workshops will be held for longliners in those areas as well.	Records of nubmers of person trained	Completion of workshops	On going
Interactive Protected Species Workshops	Contract awarded to techniques.org	Complete and beta test web-based interactive protected species workshops program.	evaluate success of program	Summary report on progress and results of project	Implementation of finished product on PIRO server.	Oct-06

Dehooking Training for Fishermen and Observers	Trainings conducted at Protected Species Workshops and observer training sessions. Trained international observers in Pohnpei.	Continue dehooking trainings.	Continue dehooking trainings	Records kept of numbers trained		
Building Capacity to Minimize Seabird bycatch in Hawaii's Pelagic Longline Fisheries	44 vessels out-fitted for side-setting and bird curtains. Report on this phase of the project written	Continue to convert to side-setting on those vessels expressing interest (about 30 vessels)	Project should be complete	Records of number of vessels converted and report summarizing the project	Outfit the remaining 30 vessels expressing interest in side-setting	Jun-06
Pelagic Longline Seabird Regulation, Take Mitigation, and Handling Video	Contract awarded. Rough cut of video completed.	Complete polished version of seabird video with separate modules. Discrete modules will increase versatility of the video.	Begin using video in Protected Species Workshops and other outreach venues.	Protected Species Workshop Coordinator Evaluation	Completion of Video	Jul-06

PIFSC additions							
Estimation of fishery takes of sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals using longline and bottomfish observer data	Historical takes estimated. Annual report of 2004 quarterly estimates for turtles, birds, and mammals in the tuna longline fishery. No bycatch observed in the bottomfish fishery in 2004	Annual report of 2005 quarterly estimates for the tuna longline and bottomfish fleet. The swordfish longline fishery is 100% observed. Special summaries and estimates as requested. Explore observer data to look for effects of operational characteristics on bycatch rates	Annual report of 2006 quarterly estimates for the longline and bottomfish fleet. Special summaries and estimates as requested. Explore observer data to look for effects of operational characteristics on bycatch rates	Timely submission of PIFSC reports to PIRO	Estimate protected species bycatch by Hawaii-Based Fisheries in 2005	Apr-06	

Development and testing additional bycatch reduction technology in Hawaii fisheries	Evaluated voluntary use of small circle hooks by the tuna fishery, Initiated contract testing of large circle hooks on 17 vessels. Tested barbless circle hooks in the shore fishery. Started longline testing of chemical shark deterrent. Explored other behavioral and sensory mechanisms of bycatch largely through contracts to universities	Continue '05 projects. Initiate testing of deeper (all hooks deeper than 100m) longline fishing to reduce blue marlin and other epipelagic bycatch. Initiate testing of barbless circle hooks in the longline fishery. Initiate new projects based on results of ongoing university contract studies on turtle and fish vision, behavior, swallowing mechanisms, etc. Continue behavioral and sensory mechanisms of bycatch to study	Continue '06 Projects and initiate new projects based on results of prior studies	Production of scientifically peer reviewed results. Number of publications and DQA'd reports to PIRO and the Council for management action	Publish Research on the Causes and Mitigation of Sea Turtle Interactions with Longline Fisheries	Sep-06	
Cooperative testing of turtle bycatch reduction methods with other nations as a means of exporting conservation engineering.	Cooperated in studies now underway in Japan, Korea, Philippines, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Brazil, and Spain. Conducted Technical assistance workshop.	Continue '05 projects including work in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and Italy contracted in '05 but really getting started in '06.. Contract testing of stiffer lines to reduce entanglement in coastal South American Fisheries.	Continue '06 Projects and initiate new projects based on results of prior studies	In addition to the above (and also contributing to previous milestone), the number of countries participating, and the number reporting positive results for turtle bycatch reduction or continued fishery viability.	Initiate Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction Experiments and Handling Workshops in Additional Nations	Sep-06	
Presentation of technical studies on bycatch issues to international regional fishery management organizations	Presented results of recent studies of circle hooks and fish bait use to FAO at special meeting in Bangkok (Nov '05), at FAO COFI (Mar'05) and IFF3 (Jul-05)	Present results of recent studies of circle hooks and fish bait use to prevent longline bycatch to the ICCAT, the WCPRFC, and to the new Bycatch Working Group of the North Pacific ISC (the advisory body to WCPFC for northern area). Make recommendations.	Continue briefing. Making proposals, and achieve implementation of measures in more foreign fisheries.	Number of RFMO's addressed, number considering recommendations, number of nations implementing new bycatch reduction measures.	Convene First Meeting of the Bycatch Working Group of the North Pacific ISC (ISC is advisory committee to the WCPFC for the northern area)	Apr-06	
Conduct and update stock assessment of species that comprise a significant bycatch	Preliminary blue shark production model assessment completed in collaboration with the National Fisheries Research Institute of Japan.	Multifan CL model assessment will be completed and compared with production model and reported to the North Pacific ISC and the Scientific Committee of the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Commission	Conduct stock assessments of other species that comprise a significant bycatch.	Production of scientifically peer reviewed results. Number of publications and DQA'd reports to PIRO and the Council for management action	Update Stock Assessment of North Pacific Blue Shark Stock and Report on the Findings.	Apr-06	